

ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1944.  
This report is a brief report prepared on the lines of that of 1943.

The Area. of the District remains the same as in previous years.

The Population is estimated at 6,500, and this figure is taken as a basis in calculating the birth and death rates.

Vital Statistics.

The Birth Rate. The number of live births was 108 and of these 58 were males and 50 females. Six of the males and five of the females were illegitimate. The Birth Rate (adjusted for inward and outward transfers) is therefore 17.2 per thousand per annum.

1944 - 17.2

1943 - 15.3

1942 - 16.4

The Birth Rate for England & Wales-18.1

The Death Rate. The number of deaths was 86 and of these 41 were males and 45 females. The Death Rate (adjusted for inward and outward transfers) is therefore 13.2 per thousand per annum.

1944 - 13.2

1943 - 12.4

1942 - 13.7

The Death Rate for England & Wales-11.6

The Infantile Death Rate. The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 4 (2 illegitimate) The Infantile Death Rate is therefore 35.7 per thousand births.

1944 - 35.7

1943 - 36.7

1942 - 34.2

The Infantile Death Rate for England & Wales-46.

Causes of Death.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	Pneumonia	3
Influenza	1	Road Traffic Accidents	3
Cancer	12	Other Causes	34
Heart Disease	27		

No deaths were caused by Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Whooping Cough, Measles, or Puerperal Fever.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified was 76 as follows:-

Chicken Pox.	49	Scarlet Fever.	6
Whooping Cough.	5	Meningitis.	1
Measles.	3	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	9
Diphtheria.	2	Other Tubercular Diseases.	1

Eleven cases of Diphtheria and three cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Alnwick Fever Hospital during the year. This Hospital admits cases from both the Urban and Rural Districts of Alnwick.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

About 90 children under the age of five years and about 50 over the age of five years were immunised against Diphtheria during the year.

Water.

Although water supplies proved to be sufficient during the year the margin of safety was small. It is gratifying to note that the Council appreciate the seriousness of the position and schemes for augmenting the supply are in hand.

The quality of the water has been satisfactory. Apart from a few dwellings - usually situated in prospective slum clearance areas - water is provided direct to the house.

#### Sewerage.

The Sewerage Works are accepted to be insufficient and their re-design is to be given priority in the Council's post-war plans.

#### Houses.

During the year there has been no progress of note and there is an acute shortage of houses in the district.

#### Dis-infestation.

A number of bug infested houses have been dealt with. Much has been accomplished by poisoning rats in the sewers.

#### Summary.

The general health of the district has been good and apart from mild Influenza and Measles at the beginning of the year there has been no epidemic disease of note.

B. TREVOR ROPER.

Medical Officer of Health.